

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5    1.    A method comprising:
- detecting a cursor in a proximity of a geometry piece of a mechanical design
- having multimedia associated with the geometry piece; and
- automatically generating an icon associated with the geometry piece for
- accessing the associated multimedia.
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2.    The method of claim 1, wherein said automatically generating the icon comprises
- automatically generating a leader line entity from the geometry piece.
3.    The method of claim 2 further comprising automatically generating the icon at an
- 15    end of the leader line entity opposite the geometry piece.
4.    The method of claim 1, wherein said automatically generating the icon comprises
- automatically generating an icon corresponding to a type of multimedia associated with
- the geometry piece.
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5.    The method of claim 1, wherein said icon includes a hyperlink to an application to
- execute the multimedia.
6.    The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining if a request to associate multimedia with the geometry piece is received;

facilitating association of multimedia with the geometry piece upon determining that the request to associate multimedia with the geometry piece is received;

5 receiving a selection of a type of multimedia to be associated with the geometry piece; and

automatically generating an icon associated with the geometry piece for accessing the associated multimedia.

10 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said receiving the request comprises receiving a cursor selection on the geometry piece.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said facilitating comprises generating and displaying a menu for selection of a type of multimedia to be associated with the  
15 geometry piece.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said receiving the selection of the type of multimedia comprises receiving the selection of at least one of an audio note, a textual note, and an animation note.

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10. The method of claim 6 further comprising receiving an inputted leader line entity.

11. An article comprising a machine accessible medium having instructions encoded therein, said instructions, which when executed by a machine, said executing instructions operate to detect a cursor in a proximity of a geometry piece of a mechanical design having multimedia associated with the geometry piece, and  
5 automatically generate an icon associated with the geometry piece for accessing the associated multimedia.

12. The article of claim 11, wherein said executing instructions operate to automatically generate a leader line entity from the geometry piece.

10 13. The article of claim 12, wherein said executing instructions further operate to automatically generate the icon at an end of the leader line entity opposite the geometry piece.

15 14. The article of claim 11, wherein said executing instructions operate to automatically generate an icon corresponding to a type of multimedia associated with the geometry piece.

20 15. The article of claim 11, wherein said executing instructions operate to include a hyperlink to an application to execute the multimedia.

16. The article of claim 11, wherein said executing instructions further operate to determine if a request to associate multimedia with the geometry piece is received,

facilitate association of multimedia with the geometry piece upon determining that the request to associate multimedia with the geometry piece is received, receive a selection of a type of multimedia to be associated with the geometry piece, and automatically generate an icon associated with the geometry piece for accessing the associated multimedia.

17. The article of claim 16, wherein said executing instructions operate to receive a cursor selection on the geometry piece.

18. The article of claim 16, wherein said executing instructions operate to generate and display a menu for selection of a type of multimedia to be associated with the geometry piece.

19. The article of claim 18, wherein said receiving the selection of the type of multimedia comprises receiving the selection of at least one of an audio note, a textual note, and an animation note.

20. The article of claim 16, wherein said executing instructions further operate to receive an inputted leader line entity.

21. An apparatus comprising:

a machine accessible medium having instructions encoded therein, said instructions, which when executed by a machine, said executing instructions operate to

detect a cursor in a proximity of a geometry piece of a mechanical design having multimedia associated with the geometry piece, and automatically generate an icon associated with the geometry piece for accessing the associated multimedia; and  
a processor coupled to the machine accessible medium to execute said

5 instructions.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said executing instructions further operate to determine if a request to associate multimedia with the geometry piece is received, facilitate association of multimedia with the geometry piece upon determining that the  
10 request to associate multimedia with the geometry piece is received, receive a selection of a type of multimedia to be associated with the geometry piece, and automatically generate an icon associated with the geometry piece for accessing the associated multimedia.